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ily indorses Mr. Hanson's contention that a thorough education, preferably four years of college, is essential preparation for good cataloging work, this preparation to emphasize foreign languages, especially Latin and German at this time.

Resolved, That the Catalog Section urge that this matter be given consideration by all library schools and authorize the secretary to call this resolution to the attention of the Association of American Library Schools.

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Catalog Section that if catalogers with the above qualifications are to be attracted to and kept in this field, the maximum and minimum salaries must be increased and the clerical work required of the cataloger be reduced to the lowest amount possible.

Resolved, That the Catalog Section authorize the incoming officers to carry forward the work on the proposed Index of Songs and to report progress at the next meeting.

Resolved, That thanks are due to all who have labored to prepare the program, and to those who have so ably assisted in carrying it out.

The Resolutions Committee also stated:

As an outgrowth of the free discussion in this section, begun in Swampscott and con-

tinued in this meeting, catalogers must be sensible of a better understanding and appreciation of their problems on the part of those not directly engaged in the work.

It was moved by Miss Hedrick, chairman of the Smaller Libraries Division, and seconded by Miss Tucker, Harvard University Library, that the chairman appoint a committee of five to prepare a report on the questions of organizing an association of catalogers and to outline a method of procedure. The motion was carried. The committee will be announced later.

Adelaide F. Evans, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, presented the following names: Chairman, Helen B. Sutliff, Stanford University Library; secretary, Ruth Wallace, Indianapolis Public Library. Moved and seconded that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the persons nominated. Carried.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

RUTH ROSHOLT,
Secretary.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS SECTION

First Session

The first meeting of the Children's Librarians Section was held Tuesday afternoon, June 27, with Clara W. Hunt, chairman, presiding. The topic for the afternoon was a series of papers on children's books and the present day interest in them. The culmination of this meeting was the awarding of the John Newbery medal for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children during the year 1921.

The following speeches were presented:

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF FOLK TALES AND MODERN FAIRY TALES, AND THE STORY HOUR*

By MARGARET B. CARNEGIE, *Supervisor of Story Telling, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*

The rambling organization and the questionable moral value of many of the stories found in the recent collections of folk tales

and fiction fairy tales, makes it difficult to discuss them in connection with story telling. Because of the lasting influence which the story heard in the story hour has on the child's literary taste and moral development, a careful selection is most necessary. Certain criteria must be kept in mind constantly: the treatment of the story must be sincere, direct, straightforward; the ideals presented must be such as shall be worthy of a child's admiration and imitation.

Many of the recent publications of folk tales have been tales of Czecho-Slovakia and of Russia. *Hero tales and legends of the Serbians*, by Petrovitch, is a book worth noting because of its careful selection of stories and the sincerity of treatment. It is of greater interest to adults than to children however, as it includes chapters on manners and customs, and personal comments by the author. The *Czecho-Slovak fairy tales* by Parker Fillmore is well worth while, but later books by the same author are not so good. *Wonder tales from Russia* by Jeremiah Cur-

*Abstract.

tin has splendid folk style, but a poor selection of stories.

The *Chinese fairy book* and the *Swedish fairy tales* translated by F. H. Martens, are heavy and uninteresting. Padraic Colum's *Golden fleece and heroes who lived before Achilles* is perhaps the best of the recent folk lore collections from any nationality.

The same standards by which folk tales are judged, are applied to modern fairy tales. Good modern fairy tales are rare. *Seven peas in the pod*, by Margery Bailey, is charming. The *Little man with one shoe* by the same author is not so spontaneous, but is delightful reading nevertheless. Padraic Colum has given us some splendid fiction fairy tales, of which the *Girl who sat by the ashes* is typical. There are other long modern fairy tales from which selected passages might be read aloud.

In making up a year's program for the story hour, some of the best of these stories might be included, to give variety and color, and so help to keep alive an interest in books and reading.

RECENT FICTION FOR GIRLS*

BY ANNIE M. JACKSON, *Children's Department, Toronto Public Library*

Judged beside *Little women*, *Castle Blair* and other permanently established girls' books, not many of the new publications compare very favorably. There is a lack of standards, of strong characterization, of elements that stimulate the mind and the imagination, and of literary excellence. Instead, there is undue emphasis on superficial appearances and the desirability of wealth, and an untrue presentation of relative values. In few of the out-of-door stories of which there are many, does a genuine out-of-door atmosphere pervade the story, and in still fewer do we get a real appreciation of nature for nature's self, as in Gilchrist's *Kit, Pat and a few boys*.

Among the better books of recent publication are *Midsummer* by Katherine Adams, *The pool of stars* and *The windy hill* by Cornelia Meigs and *Silver shoal light* by E. B. Price. These have some claim to literary

merit, present fine standards and suggest broad and wholesome interests.

The lack of good historical stories is to be regretted since through this means so much can be given in relating past to present and providing background for intelligent citizenship.

For a real contribution to a literature for girls, the only title of fairly recent date is a 1919 publication, Tarn's *Treasure of the Isle of Mist*. This merits a place among a first selection of girls' books.

RECENT FICTION FOR BOYS*

BY MARION F. SCHWAB, *Children's Department, Brooklyn Public Library*

Nick Carter is dead. His author, facing financial ruin because his books no longer sold, committed suicide a few months ago. Not only Nick, but many other books once popular with boys, are no longer finding readers. This is because boys are live creatures and their interests have changed. Unless the old stories have that quality of greatness in them, they are gradually losing their appeal to the up-to-date boys of today. The old fashioned type of western story with its fighting and its shooting does not furnish half the thrills that may be had from accounts in the daily newspapers now, and smuggling furs over the Canadian border, a once popular theme for mystery stories, pales beside the modern account of smuggling whiskey via airplane, also recorded in our newspapers!

The World War with its tales of real heroism and valor, the Boy Scout movement, the great advance in science, the schools' emphasis upon current events and upon technical training, have created a demand for a new type of books for boys. They still ask for adventure and excitement, but it must be up-to-date and realistic.

The majority of the older writers have failed to recognize this change in boys, and so their books still follow the old patterns. Many of the best books for boys published in recent years are the work of new writers, who have grasped the viewpoint of the modern boy, and in stories of adventure, of war,

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sea and mystery, have pleased their boy readers and satisfied the demands of the boys' elders. The reason that boys like them was expressed by one boy when he said, "This is a good book because it gives you credit for having some sense," inferring that the older books were rather patronizing and did not appreciate their readers' mental abilities.

PRESENT-DAY INTEREST IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS*

By ELIZABETH D. BRIGGS, *Librarian, Parents and Teachers Room, Cleveland Public Library*

Wherever there are children, those responsible for their training for citizenship are enlisting the aid of librarians. Requests from mother clubs for speakers on children's reading are becoming more and more frequent. From county librarians and others doing extension work come reports of calls for help from every section of the country, from school and town on the edge of the desert, the Indian reservation and the mining district. From the editor of an agricultural paper having a large circulation in Ohio, the request has come for a list of books recommended for home purchase in farming communities. Many residents in small country towns are awake to the fact that their children are entitled to guidance in reading, and the ministers as spokesmen for their communities are writing to city librarians for suggestive lists. Many of the best booksellers are requiring of their helpers a knowledge of children's books. The artist, too, is interested in making children's books as attractive as possible. Howard Pyle set a standard of illustration in his books from which later illustrators have gained much inspiration, and through them his work and interest are perpetuated.

And what shall we say of the writers of children's books? It is not difficult to call to mind certain titles which will never grow old because the authors so thoroughly enjoyed writing them that they produced books which cannot help but give pleasure to the reader of any day and generation. Lewis Carroll could not have spent many dull hours while writing of Alice's adven-

tures either in *Wonderland* or *Through the Looking Glass*. I doubt not that Dr. Van Loon chuckled as he placed Balboa on the mountain top making his great discovery. The children also chuckle as they read it, and remember.

Innumerable incidents may be mentioned which point toward an ever-increasing interest in children's books. To many mothers a shopping trip always includes a visit to the library. Fathers' lunch hours are frequently shortened because the small boy or girl is showing new interests ranging from radio to poetry, and we must not let them die for want of nourishing reading matter. There are grandmothers who smilingly admit that they find much pleasure in reading children's books and really prefer them to usual modern books of fiction. Among the grandfathers is one from a small nearby town, who has been drawing for his grand-daughter since she was seven. She is now seventeen, but her grandfather is still seen occasionally in the adult department in quest of a book for her.

FICTION READING FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS*

By MARY S. WILKINSON, *Children's Department, Hackley Public Library, Muskegon, Michigan*

Fiction reading needs no justification when it is of the better class of book, but "there are things in that shape which I cannot allow for such." It seems unfortunately to be true that much of the fiction read by older boys and girls belongs to this group of unsuitable or mediocre books. The reason for it is two-fold: first, their taste is not sufficiently trained to discriminate between the good and the cheap; and second, their craving for "lots of excitement" leads them chiefly to second-rate authors whose breathless activity satisfies even the restless adolescent. The western and the mystery story are for this reason the prime favorites, but we should not so much object to them, nor to the so-called "nature" and "religious" stories if they aroused in the reader other interests instead of limiting him to one. Not only do these inadequate books stunt the mental

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growth but they also misrepresent life in so far as they over-emphasize the more unlovely human traits and the acts resulting from those traits. There is a healthy curiosity in the developing mind which should be satisfied with live, honest books not too difficult for comprehension and most certainly not too easy. It is not a simple thing always to find a "good" book among the hundreds on the adult shelves, and the children who have grown up in the children's rooms of the public libraries where the books are selected with care, and where an assistant is always ready to help in a difficult choice, are only too apt to flounder hopelessly among the necessarily unrestricted adult shelves. Mentally immature, socially sophisticated, these boys and girls need help, patient, unobtrusive and interested, that so they may be set on the path which leads to many goodly kingdoms and realms of gold.

THE JOHN NEWBERY MEDAL

Interest in awarding the John Newbery medal brought a big audience to the first session of the Children's Librarians Section. The hall was full to capacity, many people were turned away. Children's librarians all over the country had been invited to send in votes for the book to receive this honor. At this meeting the result of the voting was announced and the first John Newbery medal, donated by Frederic G. Melcher to the Children's Librarians Section of the A.L.A., to be awarded annually "for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children" was presented to Dr. Hendrik Willem Van Loon author of *The story of mankind*.

After accepting the medal from Mr. Melcher on behalf of the Children's Librarians Section, Clara W. Hunt, chairman, said, "I would I had the ability to express adequately the gratitude which we children's librarians feel for the inspiration which prompted you to make this gift to the cause we love. . . . We feel strong and powerful because you believe in us and you are putting in our hands a weapon, one of the most potent of our times—publicity of the best kind." Miss Hunt then presented the medal to Dr. Van Loon who made a gracious acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon him. The enthusiastic applause which greeted

Dr. Van Loon gave evidence of the appreciation and interest of the large audience.

Second Session

The second meeting of this section was held Wednesday afternoon, June 28, with Clara W. Hunt, chairman, presiding. The first paper, *CHARTED SEAS*, was given by Mrs. Mary E. S. Root, long associated with children's work in Providence, Rhode Island. As if in response to the telegraphic salute of twenty-one guns sent the Children's Librarians Section by Caroline Hewins and Annie Carroll Moore, Mrs. Root recalled the "little ship which was the children's library movement twenty-one years ago" and paid tribute to the early pilots and "friendly convoys" who kept the venturesome little craft on its course. Mr. Greene of Worcester, Mr. Foster of Providence, Mrs. Fairchild, Albany, Caroline Hewins and Mary Wright Plummer, did much to launch the craft and keep it going through the years. It sailed over "uncharted seas" in those days, and some of the early pilots, Miss Hunt, Miss Moore, Miss Power, Miss Engle and Miss Dousman, still sailing the good ship, know of the tireless effort required of "all hands aboard" to make the seas charted for the children's librarians of 1922. "Appreciation has come," said Mrs. Root. "The pilot of today whose good judgment was looked upon with distrust in the past must travel early and late if she would begin to meet the demands made upon her for lectures on children's books before mother's clubs, library clubs, library schools and summer schools. She must go sleepless if she would prepare all the lists asked of her. She must check *The Booklist* and other co-operative lists, and, crowning triumph in the year of our Lord, 1922, she awards the John Newbery medal for the most distinctive juvenile published this year."

The second paper of the afternoon was *GIANT-KILLING IN THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT**
By EDITH L. SMITH, *Morris County Free Library, Morristown, N. J.*

Giant-killing in the children's departments of the public libraries is not limited to tales in the fairy books of Andrew Lang and

*Abstract.

Joseph Jacobs. A mighty giant with two heads awaits daily conflict with chief librarians throughout the country; one head for decapitation is lack of funds; the other, a result of the first, the lack of an adequate number of properly trained children's librarians.

What is the country doing to train children's librarians to serve the omnivorous young readers who are waiting daily in every library for *The three musketeers*, or the latest wireless book, or, a good book on model sailing yachts and many other books? To answer this, a questionnaire was sent to 21 large libraries and 16 library schools.

The answers revealed that an average of less than 25 per cent of the output of the library schools undertake library work with children. In a short time about 33 per cent marry. Several librarians reported that the best marry, though the supervisor of children's work of the largest library system stated that some of the best had remained from ten to fifteen years. Many of the children's librarians drift into work with adults and the attendant opportunities for executive work and the higher salaries that go with it. Others leave for business opportunities with better salaries, and school work with shorter hours and long vacations. The reason most frequently given for changing is the need for better salaries.

The best library service to the community goes hand in hand with the highest salaries and the largest number of trained workers. The city in which this condition exists is the fifth in population in this country and third in the circulation of juvenile books. The fourth city in size, with a population of over one million greater, circulates 500,000 fewer books to children.

The program for the present National Education Association shows the teachers' growing interest in the pupils' silent reading. This presages an even greater need for children's librarians.

More children's librarians must be recruited but the writer of this paper feels that this must not be done by lowering the standards. Raising standards of requirements should attract the intelligent young college woman; reducing them will repel her. Higher stand-

ards, shorter hours, if necessary, so the children's librarian may be more of a part of the life of the community, less sentimentalizing about the work, and closer co-operation between schools and libraries will reveal the value of the work, and recognition in the way of better salaries should result.

It is felt that the increase in intelligent use of the adult department which all libraries show, is due in great part to the early work of the children's departments. A chief librarian whose children's department is weak because of too few and untrained assistants is truly building his work upon the sand.

Jasmine Britton, librarian of the elementary school library, Los Angeles, gave an interesting paper, **NEW ROADS IN LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN**. She pointed out that it is only through the newly opened road of the elementary school library that we can hope to reach all the children and to establish an appreciation of books and a zest for reading which will carry them on to the wider interest of the public library. Miss Britton gave several "intriguing possibilities" offered in addition to the regular work with the grades. The truant-playing boys in the parental schools need books. Children temporarily handicapped and doing special work under the guidance of the psychological experts need books, there are classes of super-bright children where the children's librarian can "riotously indulge her most toplofty ideals in the best of literature," and there are part-time classes for children who must work.

Sarah C. N. Bogle, assistant secretary of the American Library Association, gave a report on **THE COUNTRY-WIDE DEMAND FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS**. She said:

Every day requests come to the A.L.A. Headquarters for people to fill positions as children's librarians. A very small percentage of these requests can be met as children's librarians are not trained in sufficient numbers, or fast enough to meet the demand. Practically all library schools give some attention to children's work. Two schools specialize in it: the Carnegie Library School of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the library school of Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Their graduates have places waiting as soon

as their courses are completed; but this is only a drop in the bucket, as the number needed is many times in excess of the number graduated from these two schools, and all the other library schools put together.

Joint Session with School Libraries Section

On Friday, June 30, the children's librarians and the school librarians met in a joint session at the Pattengill School. A report of this meeting is included in the School Libraries Section proceedings.

Third Session

A business meeting was held Thursday evening, June 29. After an address by Clara W. Hunt, chairman, in which she urged that the section be placed upon a more organized basis, the reports of the Publicity Committee, the A.L.A. Booklist Committee, the Resolutions Committee, and the Committee on Reorganization, were submitted.

The report of the Publicity Committee was read by Della McGregor, chairman, accepted, and a motion was made and carried that this Committee be dissolved and its report submitted to the A.L.A., for further consideration.

Effie L. Power, in the absence of Adah Whitcomb, chairman of the Committee on Reorganization, submitted a draft of the proposed constitution upon which to base all future business of the Children's Librarians Section. Various points in the proposed constitution were brought up for discussion and a motion was made and carried that the constitution be adopted as drafted.

After the reading and acceptance of their reports all committees were dissolved prior to the adoption of the constitution.

The following motion, proposed by Franklin K. Mathiews, librarian of the National Boy Scout Organization, was passed at the business meeting:

Resolved, That the Children's Librarians Section of the A.L.A., prepare a brief list of

children's books, in co-operation with the Library Commission of the Boy Scouts of America, and request its publication by the A.L.A. Editorial Committee for use in connection with Children's Book Week.

Other resolutions passed at the business meeting were as follows: Be it

Resolved, That we as members of the Children's Librarians Section of the A.L.A., express our gratitude to Frederic G. Melcher for originating the idea of the John Newbery medal, an award which should be of real service to the cause of children's literature in determining a future standard of excellence of workmanship and a spirit which will correspond to the ideals for which we are working.

We are especially honored because we have conferred upon us a perpetual trust of selecting the future literature which shall receive the award. And lastly, we appreciate the generosity which prompted the gift and saw it executed in so beautiful and worthy a fashion.

Be it further

Resolved, That we express our appreciation for the delightful breakfast enjoyed at Belle Isle Park and for the many courtesies and hospitality so generously extended to the members of this section by the children's librarians of the Detroit Public Library.

Be it further

Resolved, That an expression of gratitude be extended to Edwin H. Anderson, director, New York Public Library, for the service rendered by the library's printing department, in sending out the two circular letters in connection with this meeting.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by Elisabeth Knapp, chief of the children's department, Detroit Public Library, and the secretary was empowered to cast the vote. The officers elected were as follows:

Chairman, Elva S. Smith, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.; vice-chairman, Della McGregor, Public Library, St. Paul, Minn.; secretary, Avis Meigs, Public Library, Detroit, Mich.; treasurer, Grace L. Aldrich, Public Library, Madison, Wis.

LEONORE ST. JOHN POWER,
Secretary.

COLLEGE AND REFERENCE SECTION

First Session

The College and Reference Section met on Wednesday afternoon, with about three hundred in attendance. Charles J. Barr, of the Yale University Library, presided.

H. M. Lydenberg for the Committee on Foreign Periodicals of the War Period, reported that five large packages of periodicals for American libraries are ready for shipment from the Notgemeinschaft through the